



SECRETARIAT

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8 October 2012

To the members of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination

Synopsis of the meeting held in Strasbourg from 1 to 4 October 2012

The Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg from 1 to 3 October 2012, with Ms Tina Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair

- **on Monday 1 October 2012**, as regards:
 - **For more democratic elections** (*Rapporteur for opinion: Ms Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, Sweden, EPP/CD*): in the absence of the Rapporteur, approved a draft opinion to the report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, including three amendments;
 - **Gender equality and the reconciliation of family and professional life** (*Rapporteur: Ms Carmen Quintanilla Barba, Spain, EPP/CD*): held an exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum;
 - **National developments**: heard statements by:
 - Ms Bernadette Bourzai (France, SOC) on the adoption of new legislation on sexual harassment in France as well as the policy and legal measures taken by the French government to address the situation of Roma;
 - Ms Federica Mogherini Rebesani (Italy, SOC) on the recent signature of the Istanbul Convention by Italy;
- **on Tuesday 2 October 2012**, as regards:
 - **Political parties and women's political representation** (*Rapporteur: Ms Maria Stavrositu, Romania, EPP/CD*): decided to table an oral amendment to the draft resolution and took note that no other amendments had been tabled;
 - **Criminalising the purchase of sex to combat the trafficking of people for sexual exploitation** (*Rapporteur: Mr José Mendes Bota, Portugal, EPP/CD*): considered an outline for a report;
 - **Gender equality in South-East Europe** (*Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Charles Gardetto, Monaco, EPP/CD*): heard a statement by the Rapporteur on his visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina (17-18 September 2012);
 - **Appointment of rapporteurs**: appointed:
 - Mr Håkon Haugli (Norway, SOC) as Rapporteur for a report on Tackling discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity;

- Ms Tina Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) as Rapporteur for a report on So-called “honour” crimes in North Caucasus;
- Mr Ferenc Kalmár (Hungary, EPP/CD) as Rapporteur for a report on The situation and rights of traditional national minorities in Europe;
- Mr Oleksiy Plotnikov (Ukraine, SOC) as Rapporteur for a report on Visa policy - protection of public order or discrimination on the basis of nationality?

and heard from them a declaration on the absence of conflict of interest;

- **Tackling intolerance and discrimination in Europe with a special focus on Christianity:** took note of a motion which had been referred to it for information, heard a statement by Mr Valeriu Ghiletschi (Moldova, EPP/CD), first signatory of the motion and, following an exchange of views, decided to ask the Bureau to modify the reference with a view to being seized for report;
- **Non-discrimination in access to justice:** heard a statement by Ms Federica Mogherini Rebesani (Italy, SOC), and took note of a motion for a resolution;
- **Composition of sub-committees:** approved the following changes:
 - Ms Eleni Zaroulia (Greece, NR) joins the sub-committee on gender equality as a full member, and Ms Theodora Tzakri (Greece, SOC) as an alternate;
 - Ms Maria Giannakaki (Greece, NR) joins the sub-committee on the rights of minorities as a full member, and Ms Eleni Rapti (Greece, EPP/CD) as an alternate;
 - Ms Maria Giannakaki (Greece, NR) joins the sub-committee on racism and xenophobia as a full member, and Ms Theodora Tzakri (Greece, SOC) as an alternate;
- **on Wednesday 3 October 2012, as regards:**
- **Tackling racism in law enforcement institutions** (*Rapporteur: Mr David Davies, United Kingdom, EDG*): considered a revised outline for a report, took note of the Rapporteur’s decision to limit the scope of the report to tackling racism in the police, and held a hearing with the participation of :
 - Ms Deborah Glass, Deputy Chair of the Independent Police Complaints Commission, United Kingdom;
 - Mr Julien Le Gars, Deputy Director for public liberties, Ministry of the Interior, France;
 - Ms Chantal Pons-Mesouaki, Deputy Secretary General of the Trade Union for public security officers, France;
 - Ms Lanna Hollo, Open Society Justice Initiative, France;
- **Appointment of representatives:** appointed:
 - Mr Boriss Cilevics (Latvia, SOC) to attend the launching of the Third Thematic Commentary on the Language Rights of Persons belonging to National Minorities, Strasbourg, 15 October 2012;
 - Mr José Mendes Bota (Portugal, EPP/CD) to participate in the next meeting of the Commission on Gender Equality (GEC), Strasbourg, 16 November 2012; and
 - Ms Fatiha Saïdi (Belgium, SOC) to attend the conference on Human rights and foreign policy, organised by the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Turin, 13 December 2012;
- **Other business:** following a statement by Mr Jonas Gunnarsson (Sweden, SOC), held an exchange of views on the objection by a number of EU member states to the proposal of introducing an EU directive on gender quotas in the executive boards of large companies, and decided to table a motion on this subject;
- **Next meetings:** confirmed its meetings as follows:
 - Istanbul, Turkey, 3 – 6 November 2012 (meeting of the ad hoc sub-committee to participate in the Conference on “Promoting the social and political empowerment of women” organised by the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Turkish parliament);
 - Paris, 3 December 2012;
 - Strasbourg, during the 2013 1st part-session of the Assembly (21-25 January).

The sub-committee on gender equality of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, meeting in Strasbourg on 4 October 2012, with Ms Carmen Quintanilla Barba (Spain, EPP/CD), Vice-Chairperson, in the Chair

as regards:

- **Islamic feminism and the status of women in the countries of the Arab revolutions:** held a hearing with the participation of:
 - Ms Zahra Ali, researcher, French Institute for the Near East, Damascus;
 - Ms Natalia Andújar, researcher, co-founder and Vice-President of Junta Islamica Catalana;
 - Ms Simona Granata-Menghini, Deputy Secretary of the European Commission for Democracy through Law (Venice Commission);
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** left it to its Chairperson to decide the date and place of its next meeting.

The Parliamentary Network “Women Free From Violence” meeting in Strasbourg on 4 October 2012, with Ms Tina Acketoft (Sweden, ALDE) in the Chair,

as regards:

- **Activities of the network:** held an exchange of views with the Deputy Secretary General, Ms Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, and discussed a strategy to promote the Istanbul Convention;
- **Date and place of the next meeting:** confirmed that its next meeting would take place in Strasbourg, during the January 2013 part-session.

Sonia Sirtori, Marine Trévisan, Giorgio Loddo, Elodie Fischer, Géraldine Grenet

cc. Secretary General of the Assembly
Director General, Directors and all staff of the Secretariat of the Assembly
Secretaries of National Delegations and of Political Groups of the Assembly
Secretaries of observer and partner for democracy delegations
Secretary General of the Congress
Secretary to the Committee of Ministers
Directors General
Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Organisational Development and Reform
Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
Director of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights
Director of Communication
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